Outrigger wins 10th state title in a row

Nothing can slow OCC down

By Michael Tsai Special to The Advertiser

The Outrigger Canoe Club withstood a two-hour wait and a surprisingly strong field of competitors yesterday to win its 10th consecutive Hawaii Canoe Racing Association State Championship Regatta before an enthusiastic crowd of 3,500.

Outrigger placed first overall in the AAA division (15 crews or more) with 155 total points. Hui Nalu finished second with 102 points, followed by Big Island champion Kai Opua with

89 points.

Healani finished first in the AA division (seven to 14 crews) and eighth overall with 54 points. Keauhou O Kona won the A division (six crews or less) with 17 points.

Forty-six clubs representing Oahu, the Big Island, Maui, Kauai and Molokai took part in 31 men's and women's events.

The regatta, which was held at the newly renovated Keehi Lagoon racing site, was delayed two hours so officials could reset the starting flags. The flags had mistakenly been set 65 feet apart to accommodate 14 racing lanes, two more than the course was designed for.

Before the race started, officials decided to move the flags farther out into the lagoon to allow for the standard 80 feet between flags. The move shortened the length of the lanes from a half-mile to a quartermile, irritating some racers.

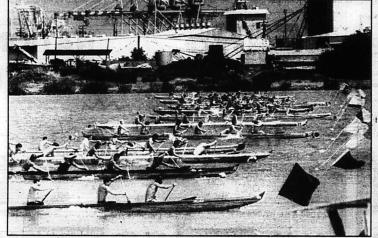
"They (the officials) definitely screwed up the course," said Outrigger boys coach Cathy Ho. (Na 'Ohana O Na Hui Wa'a) teams are more used to a quarter-mile course, so this gives hem an advantage."

No distinct advantage was visible, however, as Hui Wa'a's top finisher, Lokahi, was only able to place fifth overall. The delay did take its toll on paddlers; who raced later in the

"The wait made our upper division paddlers more tired," said Healani head coach Gary Murakami. "They had to wait all'day to race."

The shortened course also narrowed the possibility of up-per, division teams setting course records because it dou-bled the amount of turns teams would need to make to complete courses one mile or longer. For example, the two-mile senior men's canoes had to make seven turns rather than the usual three turns.





Lanikai's men's seniors (above) show their muscle during their race in yesterday's Hawaii Canoe Racing Association State Championship Regatta. Lanikai won the race. beating Outrigger and Hui Nalu. Lanikai's members were Charles Cates. John Foti, Kalani Irvine, Richard Lambert, Paul Graham and James Foti. At left, the freshman men's competition gets under way at Keehi Lagoon.

Advertiser photos by Bruce Asato

formance in part to the club's

new upper division trainer, Ka-

ears and older) division. Hui

year of competition, outpaced Outrigger, 4:35.21 to 4:48.21.

Even without the delay and course change, Outrigger head coach Di Guild said her club faced more adversity this year. The club qualified for only 23 of the 31 events, significantly

less than previous years. "Anytime you can enter a lot of crews you have a better chance of winning," Guild said. "We usually qualify about 30 crews. It just seems like our club needed to take a rest this year. It's hard to keep it (the winning) up every year."

Outrigger placed first in only nine events, but managed to distance itself from the other clubs by placing second or third in 10 other events.

"We haven't done really well

practice," Guild said. "It's im- attitude. This is the kids' Puakea credited the men's perportant to be consistent and try to earn points in every race. That's what's carried us in the

The top eight finishers in each race earn qualifying points. The winner receives nine points while the other seven earn between eight and one point according to the order of finish.

Kai Opua parlayed its numbers to garner a strong third overall finish. The Big Island club entered crews in 30 events, placing first in only two races, but earning valuable points with top-eight finishes in 19 other events.

We came here to win it all," this year but our crews have said Kai Opua president "Aunbeen working really hard in ty" Mary Green. "It's all in the

chance to see what they've worked so hard for."

Lanikai's men's teams pulled rel Tresnak, a former olympic off one of the most impressive paddler for Czechoslovakia. Yesterday's regatta also marked the end of Outrigger's runs of the day, taking top honors in the freshmen, sophomore and senior divisions and eight-year stranglehold on the placing second in the junior diwomen's senior masters (45 Nalu's crew, in only its first

Lanikai's senior men's team capped the run with an easy victory over rival Outrigger.

Even though each member of the Lanikai crew had competed in the sophomore and junior races, they still managed to take an early lead and keep it. Lanikai maintained a 11/2-boat lead over Outrigger through the first mile of the two-mile race, then broke away for good. Lanikai head coach Bobby

State Championship Regatta

At Keshi Lagoon Canoe Facility
Final Point Standings
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1. Ourriger: 155 points. 2. Hui Natu, 102: 3. Kei
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An Division (7-16 crews)
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Valkala Surf. Cub, 23: 5. Manu @Ric Kai, 22: 6.
Kasha, 21: 7, Ne Keix O Kai Mol, 20: 8. Kriet, 14:
9. Hock Rai, 1.

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Sophomore: 1, Lankai (Michael Smith, Johr Bobby Nortage, Rich Lambert, Vince Olds, J. Fotti, 1135.45. 2 Outrigger, 1147.86. 3, Hui 1154.64. Jambon 1, Lokahi (Ron Camuso, Ric Ouch, Michael-Cushne, Bryan Atlen, Denr-Ki Nathan Ukishma, 1145.84. 2, Lankai, 1159.6 Outrigger, 31.55.15.

12 under: 1. Napili (Kelii Tihada, Brent Matsu, pe Kanemitsu, Tyra Kinnan, Peter, Hett. Grace, nemitsu), 2:19.72. 2, Leeward Kai, 2:20.29. 3, alani, 2:22.2.

Masteris: 1, Kai E Hritu (Bill Flosehill, Ma sen, Linda Lee O'Dell, Leo Santimer, Kristy Mark Pakuti, 405.29. 2, Na Kai Ewath, ¹70 Healani, 4.11.15. Open: 1, Outrogger (Norma go, Rob Harrison, Bill Danford, Mark, Buck Kali, Coleen Kelley), 3:49.34. 2, Healani, 33 Kaliua, 4:03.99.